DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

DEC 2 0 2018.

Ref: 19-F-0433

Ms. Eloise Adams
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 64602
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Ms. Adams:

    This is the final response to your enclosed December 11, 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Your request was received in this office on December 19, 2018 and assigned it FOIA case number 19-F-0433. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

    Our office does not maintain a central database of contracts by contractor name. Generally, we need a list of contract numbers to initiate a search. We suggest that you seek the information from the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)-NG), the current central repository of information on Federal contracting at https://www.fpds.gov/fpdsng_cms/. The system contains detailed information on contract actions over $3,000 (FY2004 and later data). The system can identify who bought what, from whom, for how much, when and where. FPDS-NG offers public users unprecedented access to the spending patterns of the Federal government - at no cost. Once you have registered at www.fpds.gov, you will have access to all actions in that have been submitted to FPDS-NG from across the Federal government.

    Upon receiving the information from FPDS, if you wish to submit a request for a full contract, please include the contract number in your request. Please keep in mind when submitting your request that this office only processes FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

    According to the FOIA's legislative history, a description of records requested is sufficient if it enables a professional employee of the agency who is familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Courts have also stated that a request is reasonably described if the agency is able to determine "precisely" what records are being requested. The "reasonably described" requirement exists because the FOIA was not intended to reduce government agencies to full-time investigators on behalf of requesters. As such, it is the requester's responsibility to frame requests with sufficient particularity to ensure that searches are not unreasonably burdensome, and to enable the searching agency to determine precisely what records are being sought.
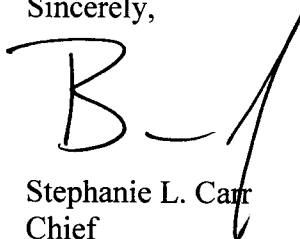
We hope the aforementioned information will prove useful to you as you work to formulate a FOIA request that reasonably describes the records you seek. If you have any questions, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Toni Wilkerson, at Antoninette.r.wilkerson.civ@mail.mil or 571-372-0429.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may contact our OSD FOIA Public Liaison, Jim Hogan, at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil. Also, please note that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers services to requesters who have disputes with Federal agencies. If you have concerns about the processing of your request, please contact OGIS at:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to OCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may use the OSD FOIA request portal at http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx or email your appeal: OSD.FOIA-APPEAL@mail.mil. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference case number 19-F-0433 in any appeal correspondence.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosure:
As stated